

Code of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters and Translators
Chap. 48 of the Iowa Court Rules – *Canons only; Comment sections omitted* (effective 7-1-15)

Canon 1 – Accuracy and Completeness: An interpreter must render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation by reproducing in the target language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to the meaning of what is stated or written, and without explanation.

Canon 2 – Representation of Qualifications: An interpreter must accurately and completely represent the interpreter's certification, education, interpreter training, and interpreting experience.

Canon 3 – Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest: An interpreter must be impartial and unbiased and must refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias. An interpreter must disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Canon 4 – Professional Integrity and Demeanor: An interpreter must act honestly and professionally, in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court.

Canon 5 – Confidentiality: An interpreter must protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information. An interpreter may disclose information that would otherwise be privileged or confidential to the extent such disclosure is necessary to prevent imminent death or bodily harm.

Canon 6 – Restriction of Public Comment: An interpreter must not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which the interpreter is or has been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential, except to facilitate training and education.

Canon 7 – Scope of Practice: An interpreter for an LEP participant in any legal proceeding or for an LEP party in a court ordered program must provide only interpreting or translating services. The interpreter must not give legal advice, express personal opinions to individuals for whom interpreting services are being provided, or engage in other activities that may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating.

Canon 8 – Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance: An interpreter must assess at all times the interpreter's ability to competently and ethically deliver interpreting services. When an interpreter has any concern about the interpreter's ability to competently and ethically provide services or about interference with or impediments to providing competent and ethical services, the interpreter must immediately report that concern to an appropriate authority.

Canon 9 – Duty to Report Criminal Convictions and Ethical Violations: An interpreter must immediately report the interpreter's conviction of a felony or any lesser crime of dishonesty or moral turpitude to the Office of Professional Regulation of the Iowa Supreme Court (OPR). The interpreter must also immediately report to the OPR any public discipline entered against the interpreter in any jurisdiction. The failure to submit such a report may be an independent ground for discipline. An interpreter who observes another interpreter commit a serious violation of the Code of Conduct should submit a written complaint to the OPR.

Canon 10 – Professional Development: An interpreter must strive to become more skillful and knowledgeable and advance the profession through activities such as professional training, education, and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.